



Friday 26th June 2026

HEADLINES

St Mary's Catholic School



Dear St Mary's Community,

As we move towards the later stages of what has been an eventful summer term, I want to take a moment to reflect on the remarkable resilience and cooperation demonstrated by our entire school community. During last weeks 'red alert' heat wave, we faced an unprecedented situation that required us to move to remote learning – something we rarely, if ever, have to consider during the summer months. I am deeply grateful to our staff and students for being so diligent and conscientious in engaging with their remote learning during this period. The situation changed daily in response to Government announcements and Met Office updates, and I must extend sincere thanks to our site team who worked tirelessly to support our risk assessment and keep our school as cool and ventilated as possible as we attempted to remain open and in school. Your cooperation and support as parents was most appreciated as we navigated these challenging circumstances together. We are thankful now for the return to more regular summer temperatures and our routine school days.

I would also like to draw your attention to an important matter we have communicated to you via letter regarding our 'mobile phone free school', which will be implemented from September 2026. This policy, alongside our guidance on the social media ban, has been designed with the safety and wellbeing of our young people at the forefront of our minds. I ask that you take the time to review the letter and accompanying literature sent to you and included in this newsletter, as your partnership in helping to educate and keep your child safe from the dangers of social media and excessive mobile phone use is invaluable.

On a more celebratory note, our Year 11 Prom was truly magical – a wonderful night filled with dancing, joy and celebrations for our talented students. It was lovely to see them celebrate their friendships and the joy of this significant milestone together. We are excited to welcome them back on Wednesday 1st July for their Sixth Form Taster Day experience.

We were also privileged to host a wonderful Trust Sacramental Mass, where our students who received the Sacrament of Confirmation this year joined with all our Trust Primary schools in their First Communion dresses and smart suits. Fr Peter Harris celebrated a beautiful Mass, and I must extend particular thanks and praise to our Choir and Music groups, along with Ms Matthew and Mrs Russell, who enhanced the Mass so beautifully and spiritually with their liturgical music.

As we approach the final few weeks of term, please note the following important dates this week in particular! Tuesday 30th June for our Summer Music Concert, Wednesday 1st July our Y11 into Sixth Form Taster Day, Thursday 2nd July for our Year 13 Prom, and Friday 3rd July for our annual PE Sports Awards Presentation Evening. It promises to be a very packed and busy week with lots of important milestones and celebratory opportunities for our students.

Thank you for your continued support and care,

God Bless,

Deirdre McHugh
Head Teacher



TUESDAY 30TH JUNE 2026, 7PM IN THE HALL
TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW ON PARENT PAY OR PAY ON THE DOOR

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Tuesday 30th June

Summer Music Concert

Thursday 2nd July

Year 13 Prom

Friday 3rd July

PE Presentation Evening, 7pm

Monday 6th - Friday 10th July

Year 10 Work Experience

Wednesday 8th - Sunday 12th July

Gold DofE Expedition



GO 4 Schools

Click [here](#) to access your child's academic achievement and progress data.

LOVE - RESPECT - FLOURISH

Year 11 Prom 2026



Mobile phones in school

Following the government's recent announcement of a social media ban for under 16s, the group Smartphone Free Childhood have issued a useful FAQ resource for parents. This can be found at <https://www.smartphonefreechildhood.org/resource/uk-social-media-under-16-faq>

Should parents have specific questions they would like answering by local people involved in the SFC movement, please email sfcstortford@outlook.com.



Trust Sacramental Mass Celebration

A beautiful and vibrant Sacramental Mass of celebration and thanksgiving for all our Trust schools was held recently at St Joseph's and the English Martyrs in Bishop's Stortford. Younger students received their first Holy Communion whilst St Mary's students from Years 9 and 10 received the Sacrament of Confirmation. We keep these young people in our prayers as they grow in faith.

We extend particular thanks and praise to our Choir and band who provided such uplifting music for this joyful occasion.

Celebrate Young Creative Talent!

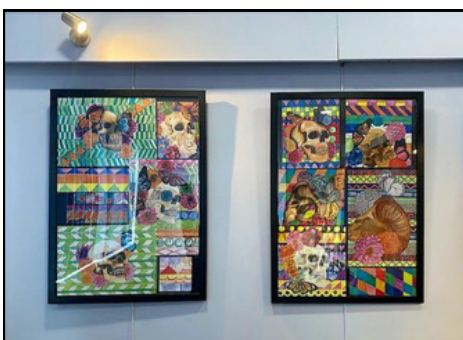
Looking for some artistic inspiration this summer? Visit the gallery at South Mill Arts and discover the incredible work created by our talented student artists.

Now showing until 3rd July, a vibrant exhibition of KS3 and GCSE Art work, showcasing creativity, imagination, and technical skill from our young artists.

From 4th July until 11th August, our A Level Art and Photography students will transform the gallery with an inspiring collection of their final pieces, highlighting their dedication, creativity, and artistic journeys.

Whether you're an art lover, a supporter of local talent, or simply looking for something inspiring to do, this exhibition is not to be missed.

Visit the gallery at South Mill Arts and support the next generation of artists.



St Joseph's Year 5 DT and Food Technology Taster Session

We were delighted to welcome Year 5 pupils from St Joseph's Catholic Primary School to St Mary's for a DT and Food Technology taster session.

During their visit, pupils took part in either a Design Technology workshop, led by Mr Hunt or Mr Webb, where they used hand tools to design and build bridges, or a Food Technology session, led by Mrs Crowhurst, where they made their own pizzas.

The students approached both activities with enthusiasm and maturity, demonstrating excellent focus, determination, teamwork, and creativity throughout the morning. They should be extremely proud of the high-quality outcomes they produced and the positive attitude they showed during their time with us.

We thoroughly enjoyed hosting the pupils and look forward to welcoming them back to St Mary's in the future.



Trip to Cambridge University

The 12 top performing students in the recent Year 10 exams were invited to visit Cambridge University and meet some St Mary's alumni who are currently studying there. We looked around three very different colleges: Peterhouse, Cambridge's oldest college; spacious Downing College, with its own art gallery; and the more modern Fitzwilliam College.

Students visited the Fitzwilliam Museum and also learnt how each College has its own library - Fitzwilliam College's is complete with spiral staircase - and how the main University library, as a legal deposit library, is entitled to claim a copy of every book ever published!

Every College also has its own chapel and dining room: students found Peterhouse's to be the most beautiful of these. Nathan, studying Engineering at Peterhouse, explained that the dining room is the oldest secular building in Europe still used for its original purpose! We also heard all about the famous Cambridge Union from History undergraduate, Joe, who is now president of the Union and rubbing shoulders with extremely famous people!

A wonderful and inspirational visit for the students.

Can you help? Year 10 work experience

Work placements are a fundamental part of the Year 10 experience. They help build confidence, enhance skills and give students a taste of working life.

If you are able to help with work experience placements for our current Year 10 cohort during the week of 6th - 10th July 2026, we would love to hear from you. Please contact Mrs Knight, Careers Leader, by email on info@stmarys.net.

My icanyoucantoo experience

Hello everyone! My name is Ryan and I am currently coming to the end of Year 12 studies at St Mary's Sixth Form.

Around this time last year, I was first introduced to the icanyoucantoo programme offered by St Mary's at the launch assembly given by it's founder Nilesch Dosa. Intrigued, I decided to apply when the opportunity came around in early Year 12 and was fortunate to gain a place. And from there...

All I can say is this, this programme works wonders.

In the beginning, if I'm honest, I was not the most confident person. I could barely handle five people listening to me speak before dying of embarrassment! But now, as a result of the coaching and experience I have gained through icanyoucantoo, I not only feel much more prepared for the world beyond school, but I feel like this programme has really helped me gain a voice and not be scared of speaking anymore (so much so that I will be speaking at the grand finale of the programme in front of 180 people in Canary Wharf!)

However, this programme is not just about professional experience, they also offer so many amazing career/subject-specific opportunities to aid in developing your interests and applying to post-A level pathways. One such opportunity that I was lucky enough to attend was an engineering experience day at Williams F1. While there I was made aware of a work experience opportunity they had available.

After a rigorous admissions process, I'm proud to say I was accepted over 3000 other applicants! I spent the last week in the Williams Headquarters doing all things engineering, and It's all thanks to ICYCT for expanding my horizons. If you are planning to attend St Mary's Sixth Form next year, I cannot recommend icanyoucantoo enough! It is such an incredible opportunity, and I guarantee you will have an absolute blast.

Additionally, a word of advice to our incoming Year 12 cohort. With university and apprenticeship applications getting ever-more competitive, I urge you all: If you know what you want to do, chase it. Year 12 is the time to stack up your resume and be ready for the future: you are responsible for it. I would not have gained my work experience if I did not follow up and fight for it. I suggest that over the summer you start to at least have a look at potential experiences and opportunities that you might like to a part of: you can thank me later!



Notices

Dear Parent/Carer



The number of children with measles has increased since the start of the year, with most cases in unvaccinated children aged 10 years and under. Measles is a very infectious illness which can make children very unwell and sometimes leads to serious complications. Sadly, two children in England have died from measles in 2026.

In Hertfordshire we have had outbreaks of measles in some of our schools and cases of measles are increasing. I am therefore asking that parents take the following actions:

- Check your child's red book or the NHS App to make sure your child is up to date with their vaccinations.
- If your child has missed one or both doses of MMR, please contact your GP practice to arrange an appointment.
- You can also contact your local Community & School Aged Immunisation Service who run vaccination sessions for all ages. Details can be found here:

<https://www.hct.nhs.uk/service-details/service/hertfordshire-and-east-anglia-community-and-school-age-immunisations-35/>

- If your child is ill and you are worried it might be measles, check symptoms of measles here: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/measles>. If you need help, please phone your GP or 111 and follow their advice.

An alternative vaccine is available for those who want to avoid pork products. You can find out about this when booking an appointment. The MMR vaccination is safe and free in the NHS and highly effective in protecting children from three serious diseases, Measles, Mumps and Rubella.

Yours faithfully

Sarah Perman, Director of Public Health , Hertfordshire County Council